

Parish Profiles for the Benefices of

Alne & Brafferton

in the Diocese of York



Contents

Introduction	3
Message From The Bishop	4
Message From The Area Dean	5
The Churches:	
St. Stephen's, Aldwark	7
St. Mary's, Alne	8
St. Peter's, Brafferton	9
St. Mary's, Myton	10
St. Mary Magdalene, Thormanby	11
St. Michael's, Tollerton	11
The Schools	13
The Villages	14
Appendix 1 : Joint Benefice Worship Pattern	16
Appendix 2 : Useful Links	17

Introduction

Are you looking for an exciting challenge?

We are six churches in two Benefices, Alne in the south and Brafferton in the north. Part of Easingwold Deanery we are all committed to, and excited by the Deanery plan, and we are praying for just the right person to be called to join us as our Vicar.

We are within York diocese which is in a lovely part of the vale of York. The area is fairly rural, but with good links to the Yorkshire Dales, the North York Moors, and the East Coast. The centre of York is just 16 miles from the middle of our villages and there are good road and rail links to Harrogate, Leeds and several other major cities.

Carmel Gittens, who has been our House for Duty Reader for the past 4 years, has recently been ordained Deacon and has commenced her curacy in July 2017. This will be overseen by the Area Dean during the vacancy. Carmel is also a school governor at the local St. Peter's C of E Voluntary Aided Primary School which is maintained by North Yorkshire Local Education Authority.

Alison Dowson is our recognised Parish assistant and works across the six churches.

We have two primary schools, Alne Primary School, which is a state school, and St. Peter's C of E Voluntary Aided Primary School in Brafferton. The state secondary school is situated in the nearby market town of Easingwold, with another in Boroughbridge.

Come and help us further God's Kingdom here on earth. With a combined population of almost six thousand, there are many opportunities for mission. Over the past three years we have held occasional offices with an average of 13 weddings, 18 funerals & 14 baptisms per year.

We long to see our churches full of people who have come into a personal relationship with Jesus and who want to worship God as part of His family.

We would like you to:

- have a heart for people of all ages pastorally;
- have a heart for mission;
- encourage prayer and the study of God's word;
- understand the different worshipping styles and needs of the individual churches, and encourage us to be united as one family;
- join us on our journey and challenge us to change and grow.

We offer you:

- a warm and friendly welcome;
- prayerful and practical support;
- respect for your personal space;
- an ongoing awareness of your needs;
- friendship, fellowship, joy and laughter.

We look forward to meeting you!

Message From The Bishop



Thank you for your interest in this post of priest in charge of the rural parishes of Alne and Brafferton with Pilmoor, Myton on Swale and Thormanby. Rural mission and ministry are a stretching adventure today with distinctive challenges and possibilities. If you apply and are appointed we will support you as you explore these and join with us in God's mission to this Diocese.

The Diocese is going through a time of change as we discern the next stage in this mission faithful to the vision of becoming generous churches, making and nurturing disciples who are growing in Christlikeness, commitment, partnership, influence and numbers. In particular we sense that this will involve focussing our energies on reaching those we don't yet reach particularly the 20s-40s, on numerical growth and on establishing sustainable finances.

A major challenge of this role will be to contextualise these goals within these parishes and this will require prayerful, compassionate and collaborative ministry which enables each parish to share in the journey together. In addition, the Archbishop is committed to a pattern of weekly worship each Sunday in every church in the Diocese and to parishes working collaboratively together. Developing ministry and simplifying governance are therefore key to realising these aspirations.

What makes this an exciting role are the parishes themselves and their desire to grow in this way. You will be sharing ministry with a House for Duty curate colleague who is in IME Phase 2. This post also represents an opportunity to help our Diocese improvise effectively in rural mission and ministry. The details of the appointment are in the Profile below. May the Spirit guide you as prayerfully you consider whether to apply for this role.

+John Selby



Message From The Area Dean



The Alne and Brafferton group of churches are part of Easingwold Deanery. We are one of the smaller deaneries within the Diocese of York, with 6 benefices and 24 churches. We are looking forward to welcoming a new colleague into the deanery.

Within Easingwold deanery, we aspire to be a local network of churches, inspiring, influencing and leading mission and ministry

While working towards that, we are committed to improving communication and growing in mutual support for all the churches within the deanery. We recognise that the needs and gifts of our churches vary considerably, with smaller churches relying to a greater degree for support from other churches in the deanery. We value the contribution that every church makes to our deanery and strive to help those that are struggling.

In Deanery Synod this year, we have set up mission groups with members drawn from across the deanery. Based on the five marks of mission, we are planning to link together individuals with passion for one or more areas of mission. While one person with a passion for mission in one church can be isolated, we hope that by linking people together we can achieve more. These groups will be jointly led by clergy and laity. Every member of the clergy will be expected to take part in at least one of these groups. We also recognise the importance of music for our spiritual growth and have a sixth group which exists to draw together musical talent to provide a resource for the deanery.

In order to put our existing collaborative working on an official footing, we have recently inaugurated the Easingwold Deanery Mission Partnership. This demonstrates our commitment to closer working together across the deanery. The clergy are all cross-licensed to each other as assistant curates to allow easier working across parish boundaries and to enable long-term projects to flourish without relying on the goodwill of future colleagues. Cross-licensing is the lightest legal way of joining together, the intention being to avoid any extra burden of meetings or admin. For example, clergy do not attend PCCs in other benefices.

Would you like to be part of our deanery? We look forward to you joining us as we strive to serve our local communities and lead in mission.

The Revd Liz Hassall, Area Dean of Easingwold

The Churches



St Stephen's Church, Aldwark (Alne Benefice)

St Stephen's is a lovely little Victorian Church consecrated in 1854, standing at the centre of the village. It is very manageable and well cared for. The congregation is enthusiastic and welcoming with an average attendance of approximately 24. Services at Christmas, Easter and Harvest tend to have greater support.

St Stephens has two services a month, these both being Holy Communion from the BCP Common Worship Order 2 traditional language.

Until 1950 Aldwark was an estate village. Since then there has been some new housing development mostly in the higher price bracket, but a quarter of the houses are still tenanted on a long term basis.



The community is well balanced with a mix of young couples, families with children and retired couples, and a small number of single people.

The community supports the church at major festivals and engage in various fund raising activities and also help with maintenance of the churchyard, but their attendance at regular services is probably less than 10%.

The church is popular for weddings, partly due to the close proximity of Aldwark Manor Hotel with its reception spa and golf club facilities. We have up to twelve weddings per calendar year at Aldwark. This encourages younger people and their families to attend our church services and is a huge opportunity for mission.

This in turn encourages wedding couples to return to St Stephens to have their children baptised.

Finances are sound and have allowed improvements to be made including effective heating, a new organ and a sound system.

The church is always left open and unlocked and we frequently receive appreciative comments in our visitors book.

We believe that the challenge of our church in Aldwark is to identify and meet the needs of our local community.

The Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Alne

St. Mary's the Virgin is a Grade I listed church dating back to Norman times. A beautiful, friendly church of historical interest. Both the church and graveyard are well cared for. The church is open every day for private prayer and reflection and due to its historical interest, attracts many visitors.

The church is in good shape financially. Recent years have seen the installation of a toilet and a servery. Last December a £340,000 project (HLF supported) for the roof and masonry repairs was started and is due to be completed this summer. A further project to provide facilities within the church is being planned. As part of the bid for the grant, hopefully projects include extending the lunch held at Christmas into a more regular event, and it is hoped to have a small library as we are currently exploring Parish Nursing Ministry. The Church History booklets are currently being revised.

Activities for fund-raising and enjoyment include a flower festival, concerts and recitals. We take part at the Annual Alne Street Fayre.

The church has a sound system, linked to a hearing loop, and is wheelchair friendly. There is a splendid Organ and a piano. When there are "together" services other musical instruments are heard – very exciting!



There is a small children's area situated in the North aisle, where children are most welcome to play at any service, or during the day.

There is usually a service every Sunday, Holy Communion (Order 1 Contemporary English), and Morning Prayer. On the fourth Sunday, we share a service with our Methodist friends. We would like to re-introduce a Family Service.

The congregation usually numbers between 15 and 20, and is mainly elderly, although festival services attract very large numbers of all ages.

We hold a Coffee Club once a month to which all are welcomed.

There is a strong link with Alne Primary school, which is highly valued on both sides. The school has their own special gate into the churchyard for use when they are having a service, history or art classes. Together, we support the Salvation Army at Harvest and Christmas time.

We welcome opportunities to work in, and for the community.

The Parish Church of St Peter, Brafferton



St Peter's holds 'Messy Church' events throughout the year to coincide with dates such as Advent, Easter, Mothers' and Fathers' Day and Harvest, with an average attendance of approximately 14 children and their parents/carers. These events attract families who do not attend Sunday worship. All our services and special events are notified via the parish magazine, village noticeboards and our facebook page, but we would love to have a really good and up to date website.

Our Vision for the Future

- We would love to see more people coming to know Jesus as their personal Saviour and Lord.
- We would like to develop a church history team that could tell visitors about our beautiful church.
- We would also like to have a bell ringing team and to be able to encourage the village's already very talented musicians and singers to become regulars at our services.
- Whilst we have a very strong relationship with the school we feel that developing relationships with the local Guides/ Scouts groups would reach a lot more children and families.
- We would hope to be able to design more community development projects to reduce isolation both in young mums and the elderly.
- Our biggest dream would be to have a New Wine/spring harvest type of revival festival here in our village! We firmly believe that this will need a lot of faith, energy and a mighty hand from the Holy Spirit, but with God nothing is impossible

St Peter's Church is a beautiful Grade II* listed building. The church is open during daylight hours and stands on high ground overlooking the river Swale where St Paulinus is believed to have carried out a mass baptism in the 7th Century. The chancel and West tower date from the 15th century with the chapels added in the 16th century. Early in the 19th century it was decided to enlarge the church by reconstructing the nave in a Georgian perpendicular style.



The result is light and airy with the nave being unusually broader than it is long. In 1981 the south chapel was enclosed in glass and fitted out for small services using some of the furnishings from the closed daughter church at the nearby village of Pilmoor. There is a peal of six bells in the tower but without a local team of ringers they are only heard when the Easingwold team ring on request for weddings. However, we would love to develop a local team of campanologists to ring before services. The church has recently been rewired, redecorated, re-carpeted, a fully accessible toilet installed and a newly installed sound system with 'Loop' all as a result of generous local donations and various village fundraising.

We were successful in being awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant of £140,000 with a further £10,000 from the Garfield Weston Trust, which is to be used for further external restoration work and a new kitchen. It is hoped that this will enable better use of the church in future for community development projects.

The Sunday worship style used is Common Worship Order 1 using traditional and/or modern language, with a small committed core congregation average attendance of 12. There is usually a service on each Sunday of the month, apart from a fifth Sunday when there is a joint benefice service. There are also special services at Christmas i.e. Christingle, Nativity Service, Carol service, with our own local choir, and Midnight Communion all very well attended. At Easter we have Good Friday 'Last Hour', and Easter Day. Harvest Thanksgiving and Remembrance Sunday services also attract larger congregations. Second Sunday evenings we have a very well attended Compline service. The third Sunday a visiting Methodist minister/preacher conducts a joint Methodist service. There were 4 infant and 1 adult baptisms, 1 wedding, 3 funerals and 1 interment of ashes at St Peter's in 2016.

A community magazine is published ten times a year which has a circulation of over 350. It is produced by a voluntary team with contributions from Brafferton/Helperby, Myton and Thormanby. The net subscriptions goes towards the church finances. The magazine has details of services and church related activities, with the ministry team making written contributions. In addition, there are contributions from other local interest groups and local businesses using it for advertising.

Our financial state is not strong but we give to the Diocesan Freewill Giving quota. Most donations are Gift Aided. From October to May a monthly Soup Lunch is held in the Village Hall with the proceeds divided between the Village Hall and the Church. Our situation was eased somewhat last year by a generous financial bequest, but we still rely heavily on fund raising. Each year we support Christian Aid by holding a village breakfast and bring and buy sales.

St Mary's Church, Myton-On-Swale (Brafferton Benefice)

Myton is a small parish which was originally a Saxon settlement and is located near the confluence of the rivers Swale and Ure. The village forms a cul-de-sac as the road through it terminates at Myton Bridge. Present day Myton is a quiet, attractive village with no shops or public houses. There are approximately fifty houses and farms in the village. The whole parish of Myton used to form one estate and manor.

The church (St Mary's) is a Grade ii* listed building and is said to have been built of stones taken from ancient Isurium, now called Aldborough. It was thoroughly restored in



1887-8, at a cost of £1,200, and was re-opened by the Archbishop of York in the latter year. It consists of Nave, with North Aisle, Chancel, Tower and Porch. The tower is built of brick, faced with stone. It contains three bells, all dating from 1805. The East Window is a beautiful example of the glass-stainer's art. Two large and beautiful paintings, representing the Crucifixion and Resurrection, by C H Schwanfelder, hang against the north wall of the Chancel. The church is unlocked during daylight hours.

The Sunday worship style used is Common Worship Order 1 using traditional language, with a core congregation average attendance of 7. There are three Sunday Services per month, including a Morning Prayer which is currently being taken by one of the Church Wardens.

We contribute to the Diocesan Freewill Offer Scheme, though being a small church family there is a reliance on fund raising events such as fishing matches, a village quiz, and a Soup & Sweet lunch to enable the wider community to support the church financially. The quiz and Soup & Sweet lunch in particular are good the community together.

We are currently in the process of repairing the churchyard boundary wall. But, following an appeal to the village, a significant amount has been raised towards this project, and it is expected that the short fall will be made up from grant-making bodies.

St Mary Magdalene, Thormanby (Brafferton Benefice)

Thormanby lies on the busy A19 between Easingwold and Thirsk. Overlooking the White Horse of Kilburn, St Mary Magdalene Church is the only public building in the village.

The Sunday worship style used is Common Worship Order¹ using traditional language with a small committed core congregation average attendance of 5. There are two Sunday Services per month, including a Morning Prayer which is currently being taken by a deacon.

While regular Sunday attendance is relatively low, there are significant numbers coming along to support Easter, Harvest and Christmas. There is a Harvest Supper following the Harvest

Service and minced pies and mulled wine are served after the Christmas Carol Service. Again these are significant annual events in the life of the village.

We contribute to the Diocesan Freewill Offer Scheme, though being a small church family there is a reliance on fund raising events to enable the wider community to support the church. Although not regular church goers many residents of the village support the church by monthly standing order.

The church of St Mary Magdalene is Grade II*. It is believed to be Norman in origin with additions in the 17th and 19th centuries.

A kitchen area and toilet have been installed and four pews have been replaced by chairs. A further four pews have been made moveable to increase the amount of open space.



St Michaels Church, Tollerton (Alne Benefice)

The newest of the churches in the parish of Alne, St Michaels is just 70 years old and draws its cross generational congregation from villages across the Deanery, due to its more informal services, worship and evangelical nature.





The congregation are very involved with not only the ministry of the church, from teaching our children in 'God Zone' on Sundays, our teenagers in a Wednesday night group (with supper supplied), through to taking services, and leading prayer, but also through working alongside Christian charities in their day to day lives. The two associate Church Wardens, Arthur and Alison, are well supported by a DCC team of 10.

The church requires less maintenance than a historic church but does require routine maintenance and we have a five year program of works in place.

The church is financially stable and depends totally on the giving from the church congregation, and we tithe 10% of our income to mission focused Christian charities which are local, national and international.

One of the charities we financially support is Tees Valley Youth for Christ, which has supplied us with American interns for the past two years. These young Americans have been hosted by our church families and support us with our children's and youth work, as well as volunteer in local schools, where they share the Christian message through sport and mentoring.

In the last six months, the Church has been introduced to the LYCIG (Leading Your Church into Growth) training and from this we believe that our future focus should be in the following areas.

- More involvement within the community that our church is in, with a view to mission.
- Develop opportunities for prayer, nurture and support within our existing congregation.
- Continue to build on the relationships with the other churches in the parish, recognising that we are three congregations but one church.
- Following on from several successful invitational church services, continue to plan and implement services and events with the aim of encouraging more families to our church.

To find out more about Tollerton Village, please follow the link to the village website. www.tollerton.net

Holly Garth Parsonage House, Brafferton

The Diocese are currently looking to purchase a replacement parsonage house in the village of Brafferton.

The current parsonage house, Holly Garth, is situated in Brafferton, near the church. It has a living room, study, small dining kitchen and a utility room. It is currently configured as three bedrooms but it could be put back to four if necessary.

The appointed priest in charge will move into this house, pending the completion on another property.



The Schools

St. Peter's Brafferton CE (VA) Primary School

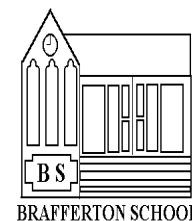
School Terrace, Brafferton, York. YO61 2PA

T: 01423 360250

W: www.st-peters-brafferton.n-yorks.sch.uk

E: admin@st-peters-brafferton.n-yorks.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Jude Williams



Aspiring, believing and achieving together

St Peter's Brafferton Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School is a warm, caring and inclusive school where everyone feels valued and can grow in confidence and faith. At present we have 52 children aged between 4 and 11 on roll, educated in 3 mixed age classes, and provide wraparound care through a successful before and after school club. We are planning to open an early years unit for children aged 2, 3 and 4 in September 2018. Our dedicated team of staff and governors inspire children to achieve their best through a broad range of exciting learning opportunities, both in the classroom and in the wider world. In this supportive community, children are encouraged to develop enquiring minds, respect other people and cultures and acquire a lifelong love of learning.

Underpinned by our core Christian values of Community, Compassion, Truth, Trust, Friendship and Endurance, we aim to nurture and develop enquiring, critical minds and creative imaginations, along with the self-esteem and disposition to use them to the full. Our whole school community lives out these Christian values in everything we do and say in our school.

Our links with our local church and with the Diocese of York are very important to us. We have strong links with our village church, St Peter's, which is a short walk from our school. Our Curate, Reverend Carmel Gittens, leads our collective worship in school once a week. We also attend church regularly to celebrate Christian festivals such as Harvest, Christingle and our recent Headteacher Commissioning service, as well as making visits as part of our Religious Education (RE) curriculum. Carmel is also a valued governor who helps us develop the Christian aspects of school life and is our governor responsible for overseeing our RE and PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) provision.

Alne Primary School

Main Street, Alne, York. YO61 1RT

T: 01347 838427

W: www.alneprimaryschool.org.uk

E: admin@alne.n-yorks.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Paul Platt



The excellent state Primary school in Alne has approximately 166 pupils and the staff and head teacher are very professional and very caring. The pupils come from Alne and the surrounding villages. OFSTED – stated that, *“This school gives pupils an outstanding education. Pupils’ enthusiasm for learning is tangible. They work together with intense enjoyment, energy and concentration. Their attendance is high and their behaviour first rate.”*

The head teacher, Mr Paul Platt, added, *“Throughout these important years of Primary Education we aim to provide an environment in which our children can develop educationally, socially, physically, emotionally and spiritually. They will not only acquire knowledge, skills, attitudes and interests but also develop friendships from which they will benefit, both now and throughout their future”.*

“We highly value our links with the St Mary's Church. Each year we visit church for our Harvest Festival, Christingle Service, Easter Music Evening and use church as wonderful curriculum resource for our local history and Interfaith Week. School is always welcomed into church and the Vicar comes into school for special assemblies”.

The school recently has a new Headteacher, Ms Michelle Dawson

The Villages

Alne



Alne is a pretty rural Village in the Vale of York and is popular with families, with a number of working farms and a caravan park.

There is a Leonard Cheshire Home and Oak Trees, the local nursing home. The Anglicans and the Methodists hold a monthly Communion Service in both homes.

'The Bluebell' is the local pub although really more of a restaurant.

The Village Hall has recently undergone a restoration programme and is well used.

A number of popular activities in Alne include:

- WI;
- Rainbows and Brownies;
- Book Club;
- Tennis & Cricket Clubs;
- Leisure Association (APLA)
- Alne Singers

A Scout Group is situated nearby in Tholthorpe.



Alne Village Hall Community Events



What's Happening Next?



FRIDAY 10th November 7.00PM
PUB NIGHT

THE PERFECT PLACE TO SOCIALISE WITH
FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS.
CHILDREN WELCOME

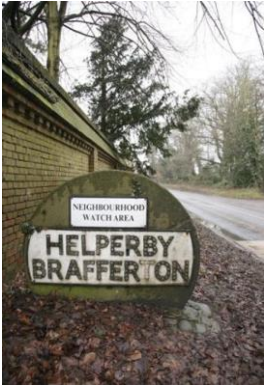
Upcoming Events

What	When	Time
Pub Night	Friday 10 th November	19:00 – 22:00
ALF – Alne Local & Fairtrade Market	Saturday 18 th November	10:00 – 12:00
Alne Choir – An Evening of Songs & Carols	Thursday 7 th December	19:45
Alne Choir – Family Concert	Saturday 16 th December	14:00
Christmas Eve Pub Night	Sunday 24 th December	17:00
Pub Night	Friday 9 February	19:00 – 22:00
Pub Night	Friday 9 March	19:00 – 22:00



Follow us on Facebook: Alne Village Hall
Web Page www.alnevillage.co.uk
Or Email alnevillagehall@gmail.com

Brafferton/Helperby



The population of the villages of Brafferton/Helperby is approximately 1200, forming vibrant communities with many activities.

These are mainly held in the Millennium Hall, which was erected in 2000, used by clubs and societies or for private functions. Being well equipped it is used for activities such as badminton, amateur dramatics, the W.I., Local



History Group, Yoga, circuit training, aerobics, watercolour painting, mixed media art class, mobility exercise class, pilates, mother and toddler group, ballet for children and adults and parish council meetings. We have also just started a fortnightly Latin and ballroom dance class which is proving to be very popular.



There is a cricket and football club which are both well supported by the local community.



On the 1st Saturday of the month there is a pop up café at the village hall. Recently the community have very successfully reinstated the Village Feast and a community bonfire/fireworks night, as well as a hugely successful beer festival.

A new shop providing fresh bread, milk, fruit and vegetables and a deli has recently been opened. A butcher's shop selling fresh locally produced meats opens 4 mornings a week. There is also a morning and evening newspaper delivery within the village. Also a mobile fish and chip van visits on Wednesday early evening.



Amongst other services available in Helperby are a car mechanic with MOT station, builders and contractors. The modern Doctors' surgery on Main Street is serviced from the Boroughbridge practice, with morning consulting hours Monday to Friday. Prescriptions are also dispensed here.

There are two pubs in Helperby, both of which serve food as well as providing accommodation.



There are limited bus services six days a week (not Sundays) to and from York and Easingwold. Additionally, there is a return service to Ripon twice a week on market days. A free service operates to Morrison's supermarket in Boroughbridge on Monday mornings.

Appendix 1 – Joint Benefice Worship Pattern

Standard	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Aldwark (Sunday)	9.00am HC		9.00am HC		
Alne (Sunday)	10.30am All Age	10.30am HC	10.30am HC	10.30am HC Ang/Meth	10.30am United HC (Travelling)
Alne (Mid-week)				Mon 2.00pm Oak Trees Communion Ang/Meth Tues 11.00am Cheshire Home Communion Ang/Meth	
Brafferton (Sunday)	10.30am HC	6.30pm Compline	10.30am Methodist Service	10.30am HC	
Brafferton (Wednesday)	9.30am HC				
Myton (Sunday)	10.00am MP (Warden)	9.30am HC		10.30am MP	
Thormanby (Sunday)	10.30am MP		9.00am HC		
Tollerton (Sunday)	10.30am Morning Worship	10.30am All Age	10.30am HC	10.30am MP Music Practice	

KEY:

HC	Holy Communion
MP	Morning Prayer
EP	Evening Prayer

Appendix 2 – Useful Links

The following web-sites provide additional information about the local area, villages and churches:

Visit Easingwold – www.visit-easingwold.com

Provides background information about the Easingwold district and links to additional information including the local villages & churches, bus timetables, etc.

Alne Village – www.alnevillage.co.uk

Provides details about the village, groups, church, etc. & includes a link to the church restoration leaflet & Parish Newsletter

Tollerton (& Aldwark) – www.tollerton.net

Provides details about the villages of Tollerton & Aldwark, the churches, community groups, etc. It also includes a link to the Parish Newsletter

British History Online – www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/yorks/north/vol2/

Provides historical details of the parishes and the churches

A Church Near You – www.achurchnearyou.com

Provides a parish search facility and overview of every church in the Church Of England